



MARYLAND MEDICAID PHARMACY PROGRAM

No. 37
Thursday, April 12, 2007

ADVISORY

*In an effort to give timely notice to the pharmacy community concerning important pharmacy topics, the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene's (DHMH) **Maryland Pharmacy Program (MPP)** has developed the **Maryland Pharmacy Program Advisory**. To expedite information timely to the pharmacy and prescriber communities, an email network has been established which incorporates the email lists of the Maryland Pharmacists Association, EPIC, CARE, Long Term Care Consultants, headquarters of all chain drugstores and prescriber associations and organizations. It is our hope that the information is disseminated to all interested parties. If you have not received this email through any of the previously noted parties or via DHMH, please contact the MPP representative at 410-767-1455.*

- **Possible Underpayments**
- **Unacceptable Prescriber DEA Numbers**
- **Early Refills for Recently Discharged Long Term Care Recipients**

Possible Underpayments

For approximately three days from Friday, March 23, 2007, at 11:10 p.m. through Monday, March 26, 2007, 10:45 p.m. the Maryland pharmacy claims processor unwittingly used a three-month old pricing file supplied by First DataBank. Subsequently, the current pricing tape was loaded and claims are being priced correctly. Since drug prices tend to increase from month-to-month, this error caused an underpayment of a number of claims. The underpayment error affected adjudicated claims for four Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene pharmacy programs - the Medicaid Pharmacy Program, the Breast and Cervical Cancer Diagnosis and Treatment program, the Kidney Disease Program and the Maryland AIDS Drug Assistance Program. The error is believed to be due to a mix-up as a result of the change in the start time for Daylight Savings.

Pharmacies are advised to reverse claims that are suspected of being underpaid and resubmit them.

Unacceptable Prescriber DEA Numbers

All claims submitted to the point-of-service (POS) claims processor for the Maryland Medicaid Pharmacy Programs must contain the Prescriber's DEA number. DO NOT submit claims using X_ numbers, which are assigned by the Drug Enforcement Administration to Prescribers who are authorized to write prescriptions for Suboxone. These claims will deny at POS.

Early Refills for Recently Discharged Long Term Care Recipients

Pharmacists can play an important role in smoothing the transition into the community for recipients discharged from long term care facilities. Patients who have only Medical Assistance (no Medicare) need to be able to refill their prescriptions as soon as they return to the community after a stay in a long term care facility. Nursing homes are required to provide only a 3-day supply of medications when discharging a Medicaid recipient.

When a community pharmacist sees that a claim for a recipient recently discharged from a nursing home is denied because of the “early refill” edit at the point-of-service (POS) system, he/she can request an override by calling the POS claims processor (ACS) call center at 800-932-3918 and providing detailed information. The call center is available 24/7.